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Abstract

Utah's On-farm Mobile Oil Seed Press and Biodiesel Processor.

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On-farm biodiesel production represents an opportunity to hedge against higher and more volatile energy prices that are a significant cost in farm and rural economies. Crop rotations that provide vegetable oil feedstocks for on-farm biodiesel production are well established with many other crops under agronomic improvement and development. Processing of feedstocks into biodiesel is a scalable process that can be done on the farmstead with a modest investment in equipment and training. Agricultural producers in Utah have been using a trailer mounted oil-seed press and an oil to biodiesel processing unit for the past four years to produce their own fuel on-site. The equipment was purchased with grant funds and is loaned to participating producers. The trailer has also been an important tool in education and outreach. In addition to the biodiesel, producers with livestock have also found the seed meal, produced via oil extraction, to have great utility.